

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. Claims 1-26 and 34-40 are pending in the application. Claims 27-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 34-40 have been newly added. Editorial revisions have been made to claims 1, 4, 11, 13-24, and 26 to correct grammatical and other formal matters per the Examiner's request. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26 and 34-40.

Claim Objections

Formal objection has been made to claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 14, 17, 24, and 27 for use of the terms "may be" and "can be." Claim 27 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. With respect to claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 24, Applicants assert appropriate correction has been made to these claims in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Non-Substantive Claim Rejections

Claims 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for omitting the switch used to select testing or monitoring. Claims 31-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. New claims 38-40 also omit the recitation of a switch to select testing or monitoring. To the extent the rejection would apply to new claims 38-40, Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome.

The Office Action asserts a switch to select either testing or monitoring of a circuit is a necessary element of the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. A switch is one example structure by which such a selection can be made using the claimed interface device. Claim 38, however, instead requires a diagnostic tool selectively attached to the interface device to be configured to control selection of either testing or monitoring of a telecommunication circuit. Such an embodiment is disclosed in paragraph [0027] of the specification. For at least these reasons, Applicants assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-23, 25-27, and 29-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,671,273 to Lanquist in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,756,017 to Bush. Claims 27, and 29-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. With respect to claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-23, 25, and 26, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, an interface device for testing a telecommunication circuit. The device includes a test cord integrated with the interface device, at least two interfaces for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool, and a switch. The test cord connects the interface device to the telecommunication circuit at a point. The first interface includes multiple conductors and the second interface includes a jack. The switch is configured to be selectively placed into at least one of a first position enabling monitoring operation of the circuit and a second position disrupting operation of the circuit and permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of the point.

In contrast, Lanquist discloses an interface device for connecting network wiring to a single subscriber's wiring. Lanquist fails to disclose or suggest a test cord with a first end integrated with the interface device. Rather, a telephone plug 68 can be *inserted* into a receptacle on the device to couple a testing (e.g., diagnostic device) to the interface device. Furthermore, Lanquist fails to disclose or suggest a test cord connecting the interface device to the telecommunication circuit at a point. Applicants respectfully point out the telephone plug 68 disclosed in Lanquist does not appear to couple the interface device to the communications circuit to be tested. Rather, the telephone plug appears to couple the interface device, which is coupled to the communications circuit, to a testing means.

In addition, Lanquist fails to disclose or suggest at least two interfaces for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool. Rather, Lanquist discloses only test jack 41 as an interface for a diagnostic tool. Applicants respectfully point out washer screw terminals 26-29 are subscriber terminals for connecting customer wiring to the network. The terminals are disconnected from the network during testing operation. See, e.g., column 4, lines 1-10.

Moreover, Lanquist also fails to disclose a switch configured to be selectively placed into at least one of a first position enabling monitoring operation of the circuit and a second position disrupting operation of the circuit and permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of the

point. Rather, the switch 30 disclosed in Lanquist can be selectively placed into a first position disconnecting the test jack 41 from the circuit and a second position disconnecting the customer wiring from the circuit. See, e.g., column 3, line 53 to column 4, line 10.

Additionally, the interface device disclosed in Lanquist cannot monitor a circuit without disruption. The interface device disclosed in Lanquist also does not appear able to permit analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of a point. The subscriber terminals 26-29 are fully disconnected from the circuit when the test jack 41 is connected to the circuit. In such a circuit configuration, analysis of the circuit on the subscriber side of the point would not be possible.

Applicants assert Bush does not overcome the shortcomings of Lanquist. Bush also fails to disclose or suggest a test cord with a first end integrated with the interface device. Rather, the device disclosed in Bush includes jacks on either end enabling the device to be permanently plugged in-line between the phone company's equipment and the customer's equipment. See, e.g., column 3, lines 26-40, and Figures 1-3.

In addition, Bush does not disclose or suggest at least two interfaces for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool. In fact, Bush does not include any interface for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool. Rather, the diagnostic tools disclosed in Bush are built into the device. Bush does not disclose providing multiple conductors as an interface and the jacks disclosed in Bush are only used to connect the device to the phone wiring circuit.

For at least these reasons, Lanquist would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 1, even in view of Bush. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, and 13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 13 is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 recites, in part, a telecommunication system including an interface device for testing a telecommunication circuit. The interface device includes a test cord with a first end integrated with the interface device, a first interface that allows for selective attachment of a first diagnostic tool, a second interface that allows for a selective attachment of a second diagnostic tool, and a switch. The switch can be selectively placed into at least one of a first and a second position. A user can configure the interface device to allow for monitoring of the telecommunication circuit without disrupting the circuit by placing the switch in the first position. The user can also configure the interface device to disrupt the telecommunication

circuit and allow the user to examine both sides of the circuit by placing the switch in the second position.

Applicants assert Lanquist would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 14, even in view of Bush, for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 15-23 depend from claim 14 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-23 is respectfully requested.

Claim 25 recites, in part, a method of testing a telecommunications circuit including inserting into a test port a test connector that is integrated with an interface device and connecting a diagnosis tool to either a first interface or a second interface. The method also includes monitoring an operation without disruption by placing a switch on the interface device in a first state and disrupting the telecommunication circuit by placing the switch in a second state, permitting analysis of the telecommunication circuit on opposite sides of the connectivity block.

Applicants assert Lanquist would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 25, even in view of Bush, for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 25-26 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanquist in view of Bush and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,039,578 to Suffi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the combination of Lanquist and Bush for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Suffi does not overcome the shortcomings of Lanquist and Bush. Suffi fails to disclose or suggest a switch configured to be selectively placed into at least one of a first position enabling monitoring operation of the circuit and a second position disrupting operation of the circuit and permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of the point. In fact, Suffi does not disclose a switch for any purpose.

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert the combination of Lanquist and Bush would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 11, even in view of Suffi.

Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 depends from claim 14 and is allowable over the combination of Lanquist and Bush for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 14. Suffi does not overcome the shortcomings of Lanquist and Bush for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 11. Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lanquist in view of Bush and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,841,559 to Curtis. Claim 28 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to claim 28 moot. With respect to claim 5, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the combination of Lanquist and Bush for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants assert Curtis does not overcome the shortcomings of Lanquist and Bush.

Curtis fails to disclose or suggest a test cord with a first end integrated with the interface device. Rather, the device disclosed in Curtis includes a first receptacle 38 into which wiring for a home system is connected and a second receptacle 40 connected to the phone company circuit through the home jack. See, e.g., column 3, lines 5-22. Curtis also fails to disclose or suggest at least two interfaces for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool. In fact, Curtis does not include any interface for selective attachment of a diagnostic tool. Rather, a light emitting diode is built into the device.

Additionally, Curtis fails to disclose a switch configured to be selectively placed into at least one of a first position enabling monitoring operation of the circuit and a second position disrupting operation of the circuit and permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of the point. Rather, the switch disclosed in Curtis deactivates the home system 46 in a first position, enabling analysis of the central office side of the circuit. The home side of the circuit cannot be analyzed until the switch is moved to a second position. See, e.g., column 4, lines 17-45.

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert the combination of Lanquist and Bush would not lead a person having skill in the art to the invention of claim 5, even in view of Curtis.

Applicants respectfully assert the rejection is overcome and request withdrawal of the rejection. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 14, 25, 27, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 20001060 U1 (hereinafter "the German reference"). Applicants note a translation of the German reference has been submitted herewith. Claims 27 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. With respect to claims 1, 14, and 25, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In sharp contrast to claim 1, the German reference fails to disclose or suggest an interface device including a switch configured to be selectively placed into at least one of (1) a first position enabling monitoring operation of the circuit and (2) a second position disrupting operation of the circuit and permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of the point. Rather, the German reference is primarily directed to a test adapter including an integral test circuit. See, e.g., page 2 (of the translation), lines 22-25.

The German reference discloses two switches 10, 11, neither of which disrupts the circuit. Switch 10 selectively provides electrical communication between the contacts of the standard connections plugs (4, 5) and either the clamping connections (6) or the standard connection sockets (7, 8). See, e.g., page 4 (of the translation), lines 4-6. Neither position of switch 10 interrupts the circuit at a point.

Switch 11 controls activation and deactivation of an integral test circuit 13 to indicate whether the polarity of the incoming signal has been switched and/or whether the loop current is too small. See, e.g., page 4 (of the translation), lines 6-8, and 15-18. The test circuit 13, when activated, is connected in series to the circuit and, therefore, does not disrupt the circuit.

Furthermore, the German reference does not enable analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of a point. As noted in paragraphs [0022]-[0023] of the current specification, disrupting the circuit isolates each side of the circuit, which permits the analysis on either side of the disruption. The German reference does not enable disruption of the circuit and, therefore, cannot disclose or suggest permitting analysis of the circuit on opposite sides of a point. For at least these reasons, the German reference does not anticipate claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1.

Claims 14 and 25 recite similar features to claim 1. Applicants assert the German reference does not anticipate claims 14 and 25 for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 14 and 25 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 34-40 have been newly added. Support for these claims can be found, e.g., in paragraphs [0024]-[0027], and in FIG. 4. Applicants respectfully assert the cited references do not anticipate or suggest claims 34-40.

Both independent claim 34 and independent claim 38 recite, in part, an interface device for testing telecommunication circuits where the interface device enables selection of either testing, whereby a selected communication circuit is disrupted, or monitoring, whereby the selected communication circuits not disrupted.

As noted above with respect to claim 1, none of the cited references disclose an interface device configured to selectively monitor or disrupt a circuit. For at least these reasons, claims 34 and 38 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 35-37, which depend from claim 34, and claims 39-40, which depend from claim 38, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 34-40.

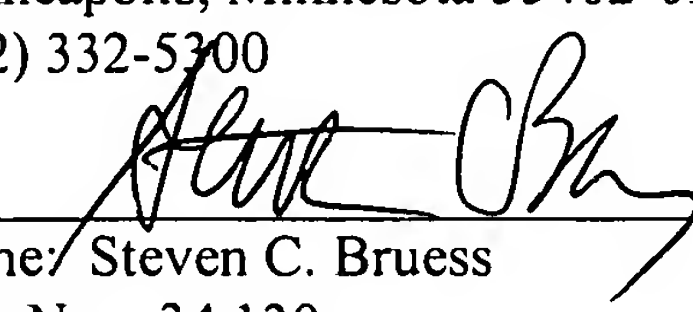
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



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Respectfully submitted,

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